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# CURRENT LITERATURE.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

### Books on trees.

THERE HAS LONG BEEN a demand for a nature-study book on trees that would contain something more than mere systematic studies. This demand Julia Ellen Rogers<sup>1</sup> has met in an admirable manner. This work is divided into four parts. In the first part (pp. 1-42), under the heading "outdoor studies with trees," the author writes in a very entertaining way on the life-history of the maple, how to tell the age of a tree, the battle among the twigs, thorns, and prickles, and other subjects. The second part (pp. 43-65) deals with the physiology of trees. The respiratory and photosynthetic processes are described simply and accurately; but under the heading "the sleep of trees" there are many unscientific and misleading statements. The heading itself illustrates this point. When we say that trees sleep we are getting out of the realm of facts into fancy. It is a question, of course, how far "fancy" can be carried into nature-study books. The line should be drawn so sharply that wrong inferences will not be made. The following sentence illustrates the point, and there are many more like it: "If the sky is overcast, the tree is drowsy; if rain sets in, it goes right off to sleep." We suppose that this is a reference to the photosynthetic process, but to the uninitiated this would convey the idea that the tree is actually drowsy in the same sense that animals are. A third section of the book (pp. 65-119) treats of the cultivation of trees. In a very clear and fascinating way the principles of landscape gardening are discussed, and one is told how to plant and trim trees. The forestry question, the farmer's wood lot, fruit trees, nursery trees, and diseases of trees—all subjects seldom mentioned in nature-study work—add materially to the value of the book. In the fourth part about 125 different kinds of trees are described. Too much cannot be said in praise of the workmanship of the book. The twenty-five full-page photogravures of entire trees and many half-tones of trunks and leaves are identical with those formerly issued by the publishers in the portfolio known as Series I, II, and III of *Typical forest trees*. While it might detract from the beauty of the book to number the illustrations, it would add much to its usefulness. *Among green trees* should be in the hands of all teachers of nature.

<sup>1</sup>ROGERS, JULIA ELLEN, *Among green trees*. A guide to pleasant and profitable acquaintance with familiar trees. 8vo. pp. xxii + 202. *pls.* 25. *figs.* 155. Chicago: A. W. Mumford. 1902.

TWO RECENT BOOKS on forestry<sup>2</sup> will help greatly to popularize the knowledge of this subject, and too much cannot be said concerning their usefulness. The science of forestry has made such rapid progress during the last ten years that any work that discusses in a readable yet scientific way the subject in all its phases should find a ready sale among teachers of nature-study, woodland owners, beginners in forestry, and others. Both works have features in common, yet in a way they supplement each other.

ROTH presents the subject in the simplest possible manner. The relation of the forests to light, shade, soil, moisture, and temperature is discussed. The subject of "forestry" is treated under the following headings: the raising and keeping up the forest, its care, its use, and its business. A third part deals with the forest as a protective cover, the distribution of the forests in the United States, the wood and its properties, and closes with a valuable key to the common trees of the United States.

GIFFORD in the first part discusses the meaning of "forest" and "forestry," and treats of wood lots on farms, the forest canopy, the forest as a soil improver, the geographical distribution of forests, and barriers to forest extension. Part II treats of the formation and tending of forests. The author recognizes the intimate relations existing between the study of forestry and forest botany, especially plant ecology. In the third part the industrial phase of the subject is treated in a very interesting way, and in Part IV are brief descriptions of the location, areas, and special features of the forest reserves. Both books are well illustrated, mostly with half-tone reproductions of photographs.—H. N. WHITFORD.

#### Books for schools of pharmacy.

DR. ALBERT SCHNEIDER'S recent book<sup>3</sup> dealing with powdered vegetable drugs is the only work of its kind in English. In it 195 vegetable powders are described, 164 of them being figured. The first part treats of the color, odor, and test of vegetable drugs, the general histology of vegetable powders, equipment and methods of examination, parasites, adulteration, powdering and sifting, and includes two keys for identification. The second part contains a special description, with illustrations of the more important vegetable powders used in the United States.

DR. HENRY KRAEMER has prepared a book<sup>4</sup> intended to meet the botanical needs of students of pharmacy. The first part deals with plant

<sup>2</sup>GIFFORD, JOHN, *Practical forestry*, 8vo. pp. xiv + 284. *figs.* 35. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1902.

ROTH, FILIBERT, *First book of forestry*. 8vo. pp. ix + 281. *figs.* 98. Boston: Ginn & Co. 1902. 85c.

<sup>3</sup>SCHNEIDER, ALBERT, *Powdered vegetable drugs*. 8vo. pp. 323. Pittsburg: Calumet Publishing Co. 1902. \$2.50.

<sup>4</sup>KRAEMER, HENRY, *A course in botany and pharmacognosy*. 8vo. pp. 384. Philadelphia: The author. 1902.